

REMARKS

I. Introduction

In response to the Office Action dated March 5, 2010, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 4 in order to further clarify the claimed subject matter. Support for the amendments may be found, for example, in Figs. 1, 3 and 4-6 of the drawings. No new matter has been added.

For the reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are patentable over the cited prior art references.

II. The Rejection of Claims 1, 4 And 6-9 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 4 and 6-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yutaka (JP 2002-137225) in view of Wold (USP No. 2,364,334) and further in view of Argiropoulos (USP No. 5,787,751), Wickham (USP No. 6,209,334) or Gross (USP No. 2,299,818).

With regard to the present disclosure, amended independent claim 1 recites a method for removing a dissimilar material, which is attached to a plastic product and is different from the material of the plastic product, from the plastic product, comprising a step of placing the plastic product in an opening of a frame movably arranged on a seat unit having a hole, the opening being larger than the hole, and moving the dissimilar material along with the frame so that the dissimilar material comes over the hole and under a blade unit arranged to be insertable into the hole.

Amended independent claim 4 recites an apparatus for removing a dissimilar material, which is attached to a plastic product and is different from the material of the plastic product, from the plastic product. The apparatus comprises a seat unit having a hole, a frame having an

opening in which the plastic product is placed, the opening being larger than the hole. The frame is movably arranged on the seat unit so that the dissimilar material is disposed over the hole.

One feature of amended independent claims 1 and 4 is that a plastic product is placed in the opening of a frame 5. For example, as shown in Fig. 3, the plastic product 10 is placed over the frame 5. The frame 5 is then moved on the seat unit 4 so that a dissimilar material 13 attached to the plastic product 10 is disposed over the hole 4c of the seat unit 4. Because the opening of the frame 5 is larger than the hole 4c, the movable area of the frame 5 with respect to the hole 4c is sufficient to provide room for movement of the plastic product 10 within the frame 5. Accordingly, a user is able to adjust the position of the dissimilar material with respect to the hole.

Yutaka fails to teach or suggest the above features. As is shown in Figs. 3-4 of Yutaka, a table 50, is arranged on a slider 52 to be movable in a Y-direction along guide members 56. The slider is arranged on the base 54 and movable in an X-direction along guide members 60. The table 50, slider 52 and base 54 have holes 58, 62, 64 of substantially the same size. As such, the movable area of the table 50 with respect to the hole 64 is limited to a small range having very low movability for the item to be punched. For example, if the table 50 is moved widely in the X and Y-directions, the table will block the punching mechanism of the blade 90. Thus, Yutaka does not disclose the method of claim 1 of a step of placing the plastic product in an opening of a frame movably arranged on a seat unit having a hole, the opening being larger than the hole, OR the limitation of claim 4 of a frame having an opening in which the plastic product is placed, the opening being larger than the hole.

Moreover, Wold, Argiropoulos, Wickham and Gross fail to remedy this deficiency, and are not relied upon as doing so.

In order to establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. As is clearly shown, at a minimum, Yutaka, Wold, Argiropoulos, Wickham and Gross do not disclose a method for removing a dissimilar material, which is attached to a plastic product and is different from the material of the plastic product, from the plastic product, comprising a step of placing the plastic product in an opening of a frame movably arranged on a seat unit having a hole, the opening being larger than the hole, OR an apparatus for removing a dissimilar material, which is attached to a plastic product and is different from the material of the plastic product, from the plastic product, wherein the apparatus comprises a seat unit having a hole, a frame having an opening in which the plastic product is placed, the opening being larger than the hole. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Yutaka, Wold, Argiropoulos, Wickham and Gross do not render claims 1 and 4 of the present disclosure obvious and as such, claims 1 and 4 are patentable and allowable over the cited prior art. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the § 103(a) rejection of claims 1 and 4 be withdrawn.

III. All Dependent Claims Are Allowable Because The Independent Claim From Which They Depend Is Allowable

Under Federal Circuit guidelines, a dependent claim is nonobvious if the independent claim upon which it depends is allowable because all the limitations of the independent claim are contained in the dependent claims, *Hartness International Inc. v. Simplimatic Engineering Co.*, 819 F.2d at 1100, 1108 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Accordingly, as claims 1 and 4 are patentable for the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all pending dependent claims are also in condition for allowance.

IV. Conclusion

Having fully responded to all matters raised in the Office Action, Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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